CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5   1.   A software component containing a medical-imaging visualization application, the software component operable to function as a model component in a model-view-controller software architecture, and having an interface having a set of user interface control parameters and a set of data handling parameters, the sets of parameters being chosen to allow flexible integration of the visualization application

10   into a proprietary Picture Archiving and Communications Systems (PACS) network.

        2.   A software component according to claim 1, wherein the data handling parameters are Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine (DICOM) format data handling parameters.

15

        3.   A software component according to claim 1, wherein the software component is a sub-component of a pre-existing data visualization application.

        4.   A software component according to claim 3, wherein the software

20   component includes a software wrapper, the software wrapper being configured to map the sets of parameters of the interface to parameters appropriate for the sub-component.

        5.   A software component according to claim 1, wherein the user input

25   parameters include any of: two-dimensional (2D) tool parameters, three-dimensional (3D) tool parameters, sculpting parameters, display decoration parameters, preset parameters, region of interest select parameters, volume rendering parameters and image display parameters.

6.   A PACS network including a software component containing a medical-imaging visualization application, the software component operable to function as a model component in a model-view-controller software architecture, and having an interface having a set of user interface control parameters and a set of data

5   handling parameters, the sets of parameters being chosen to allow flexible integration of the visualization application into the PACS network.

7.   A PACS network according to claim 6, wherein the data handling parameters are DICOM format data handling parameters.

10

8.   A PACS network according to claim 6, the PACS network including a specific glue bridge software component, the specific glue bridge being operable to accommodate non-standard aspects of the PACS network.

15   9.   A PACS network according to claim 8, wherein the non-standard aspects of the PACS network include a non-standard data format.

10.   A PACS network according to claim 9, wherein the non-standard data format is a compressed data format.

20

11.   A PACS network according to claim 8, wherein the non-standard aspects of the PACS network include non-standard data handling.

12.   A PACS network according to claim 11, wherein the non-standard data

25   handling relates to proprietary grouping of data.

13.   A PACS network according to claim 6, the PACS network including a dispatcher software component, the dispatcher being operable to link multiple software components corresponding to multiple software applications to the PACS

30   network via a common interface.

14. A method of offering a medical-imaging data visualization application to a PACS network integrator, the method comprising:

providing a first version of the application contained in a high-level software
5 component;

providing a second version of the application contained in a plurality of lower-level software components; and

allowing the integrator to decide between use of the different versions for integrating the application into a PACS network.

10

15. A method according to claim 14, wherein the high-level software component is operable to function as a model component in a model-view-controller software architecture, and has an interface having a set of user interface control parameters and a set of data handling parameters.

15

16. A method according to claim 15, wherein the data handling parameters are DICOM format data handling parameters.

17. A method according to claim 14, wherein at least a subset of the lower-
20 level software components relate to underlying technical functions of the application.

18. A method according to claim 14, further comprising:

providing a third version of the application contained in a plurality of intermediate-level software components.

25

19. A method according to claim 18, further comprising:

providing at least a fourth version of the application contained in a plurality of software components of a different level.